

Cahoon Plantation achieves Audubon certification

CHESAPEAKE, Va.—The Isles Golf Club at Cahoon Plantation, maintained by International Golf Maintenance, has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

"For integrated pest management, our focus was to improve soil and turf health, which produces a plant that is better able to withstand stress," said Tyler Minamy, superintendent. "To do this, we instituted the use of slow-release fertilizers and created no-spray zones."

To meet the other Audubon requirements, Minamy reduced irrigated turf area by installing part-circle heads and using wetting agents; reduced run-off by installing vegetative buffers; increased wildlife habitat by naturalizing a 10-acre area; and started an education program with Tidewater Commu-



Tyler Minamy

nity College.

Cahoon Plantation, a public course designed Ault, Clark and Associates, Ltd. of Kensington, Md., is the eighth course in Virginia and the 376th course in the world to receive certification.

Clopyralid use protected

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the state assembly to protect golf course use. According to Jim Husting, the association's government relations chairman and superintendent at Woodbridge (Calif.) Golf and Country Club, bill AB 2356 has been significantly watered down since its introduction and will probably

not threaten golf courses.

"We took our lead from Washington state [on the clopyralid ban]. They rallied first and gave us a bookmark on where to start," Husting said. "The language of the bill has been amended and many of the clopyralid references have been removed. We have made the case that golf

courses do not compost grass clippings, so it looks like we will still be able to use the product."

While clopyralid use in California and Washington appears secure for now, Hamlin said superintendents should heed the label. "If superintendents are using clopyralid and sending clippings off site or are composting clippings on site, they need to be aware of the label restrictions," he said. ■

Drought

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will be the number one issue for golf courses this summer.

"Last year the Northeast had the worst winter damage ever, and this year we are having the earliest spring ever," said Skorulski. "But we are also setting records for some of the driest weather ever. Although we have had some good precipitation recently, many places are still far behind."

Oatis said regulators are already checking up on golf courses and that superintendents need to follow the law or risk damaging the industry's image. "The legislation during the last drought in 1999 was poorly written but this year many states understand golf course needs," he said. "Regulators have already gone out and seen major violations, which is embarrassing. It is imperative that we follow these restrictions."

In light of this, Skorulski urged courses to take water conservation steps such as raising the height of cut and refraining from planting any new trees or annuals.

Of the superintendents in attendance at the Maine meeting, none admitted to having severe water problems, but many said they had already put water conservation plans in place in preparation for a tough summer. ■

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